

## DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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December 19, 1996

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Executive Director's Report

Because of the lack of a quorum and subsequent cancellation of the December 19, 1996 meeting of the Delta Protection Commission, I am making my monthly report by mail:

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 1997 in the Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove, Sacramento County. Tentatively scheduled for consideration are:

Vote on City of Stockton's proposed General Plan amendment to comply with the Delta Protection Act;

Consideration of a revised meeting schedule of every other month (odd-numbered months);

Vote on annual report from the Commission to the Governor and Legislature;

Update on hunting in Big Break;

Consideration of a Subcommittee on CALFED;

Briefing on Round II of "Category III" grants;

Preliminary report from Department of Parks and Recreation on the pre-survey of recreational users of the Delta (not the results of the survey itself); and

Presentation by Commission staff on the draft inventory of private and public Delta recreation facilities.

Ten Percent Penalty Fund: As of 12/3/96, the fund was up to \$4,270.68.

Administrative Tasks: The contracts for the office space, Teale's work on GIS and the Department of Parks and Recreation work on the recreation study have been extended, with no additional funds.

Update on Sludge:

The file for the Commission's regulation (Utilities and Infrastructure P-3) was filed with Office of Administrative Law on December 12, 1996. OAL has 30 working days to respond.

San Joaquin County is considering an ordinance precluding placement of sludge on any lands in the County; the temporary ban has been extended through March.

Yolo County had a second reading of a sludge ordinance on December 17; the proposed ordinance forbids placing sludge in the Delta Primary Zone.

Solano County has scheduled a second reading of a sludge ordinance on January 7, 1997; the proposed ordinance forbids placing sludge in the Delta Primary Zone.

Use of Ash at Agronomic Rates: A committee of the Solid Waste Management Board has recently recommended that there be no regulation of use/disposal of nonhazardous ash on agricultural lands at agronomic rates. I sent a letter indicating the Commission's concern with placement of materials on agricultural lands in the Delta Primary Zone and supporting a regulatory program to provide oversight of any program. Concerns have also been voiced by local governments, Department of Food and Agriculture, and State Farm Bureau.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Reports on "Water Quality of the Lower San Joaquin River (Water Year 1995)" and "Agricultural Drainage Contribution to Water Quality in the Grassland Area of Western Merced County (Water Year 1995)": These two reports, each dated December 1996, reported that water quality objective for boron (2 milligrams per liter) was exceeded in Salt Slough in March, April, and June 1995. The molybdenum objective (19 micrograms per liter) was met all year. Selenium concentrations in Salt Slough (6 to 32 micrograms per liter) exceeded the monthly mean selenium concentration (10 micrograms per liter) in 11 of 12 months. Staff analysis theorizes that 1995's very high runoff (third highest flows since 1906) flushed out materials deposited in the soils during proceeding low runoff years. Salt and Mud Sloughs drain into the San Joaquin River. In the lower San Joaquin River, the concentrations of

"measured constituents" (EC, boron, selenium, temperature and pH) were highest just downstream of Salt and Mud Sloughs, but the concentrations decreased as flows from three eastside rivers provide dilution (Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus Rivers). Concentrations of measured constituents were low at the southern Delta boundary (Vernalis). Due to dilution, the annual flow weighted boron and salt concentrations were the lowest on record, and the selenium flow weighted concentration was the lowest since 1986.

Meetings Attended:

CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Work Group on November 26: discussion of overall restoration program targets and goals.

Resources Agency Delta Levees and Habitat Committee on December 6: continuing to address regional issues which affect Delta levees including dredging, dredging windows, new legislation, etc.

CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Public Meeting (Delta area) on December 10: focused meeting discussing targets and goals in the Delta area.

CALFED Levees Work Group on December 10: considered draft prioritization list for special flood control project funds.

San Joaquin County Habitat Conservation Plan Technical Meeting on December 12: Continuing refinement of language for HCP.

CALFED Public Levee Workshop on December 17: Interpretation of new legislation, AB 360, and effects on Delta levee maintenance programs.

San Francisco Estuary Program/CALFED In-Channel Islands Work Group on December 18: Continuing multi-agency and interested parties discussion of funding and support for protection and enhancement of in-channel islands.